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Sen. Van Woerkom announces legislation signed by governor

Lansing – State Sen. Gerald Van Woerkom (R-Norton Shores) announced today that an impressive amount of Republican legislation recently was signed by the governor.

“I’m glad to see this legislation signed into law,” Van Woerkom said. “Signing this legislation shows that by working together the Legislature and the governor are putting the needs of Michigan families ahead of politics.”

Portions of the Tool & Die Package, part of the Senate and House Republican nine-point Job Opportunities for Business Success plan, were signed. These laws will:

- Establish Tool & Die Recovery Zones to provide tax relief similar to the successful Renaissance Zone program, allowing a tax reduction to help keep the industry competitive while providing incentives for businesses to collaborate for efficiency.
- Create a new exemption in the Personal Property Tax Act, allowing the equipment required by tool & die manufacturers to be exempt from the personal property tax. This will allow for increased competitiveness and additional job opportunities.
- Increase the apprentice training credit in the Single Business Tax (SBT). A better-trained workforce will entice employers to locate in Michigan, leading to more job opportunities.

Other bills signed into law include:

- The election consolidation package, which establishes four regular election dates each year, will allow voters to always be aware of election dates and save taxpayers money.

(More)

- Senate Bill 787, now Public Act 275 of 2004, will prevent students from being penalized if their MEAP answer sheets are lost. Also under this law, schools will not be unfairly designated as unaccredited or as not maintaining adequate yearly progress as required by the federal No Child Left Behind Act because of missing results.
- A package prohibiting the possession and release of non-native and genetically engineered fish without a permit and establishing penalties for violators in order to protect the Great Lakes and its natural inhabitants.

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